United Nations E/2014/SR.1

Economic and Social Council

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Organizational session for 2014

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 14 January 2014, at 10 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Osorio ..... (Colombia)
President: Mr. Sajdik ..... (Austria)

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14-20615 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. The Temporary President declared open the organizational session for 2014 of the Economic and Social Council.

Election of the President

2. **The Temporary President** said that, according to the equitable geographical rotation of the office of President, it was the turn of Western European and other States to nominate a candidate for President. Consequently, he took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Sajdik (Austria), who had been nominated by those States, to the post of President of the Council.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. *Mr. Sajdik (Austria) was elected President by acclamation.*

5. *Mr. Sajdik (Austria) took the Chair.*

Statement by the President

6. **The President** said that the Council must maintain the momentum from Rio+20 and its follow-up and translate that into a meaningful post-2015 development agenda, with sustainable development goals that respected the 1992 Rio Principles. However, efforts should not be diverted from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals which, as a result of their simplicity, measurability and time-bound nature, had made the development agenda both attractive and accessible to the international community and the general public. He urged States to persist and to make a common final push to achieve those targets, and to reflect on the lessons learned in pursuit of the Goals as the basis for future activities.

7. The outgoing Bureau had laid the groundwork for a fruitful dialogue on the theme of the 2014 annual ministerial review: "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future". The institutional framework and road map had been established for those discussions to take place in 2014 and beyond, and the Council must now draw up an action-oriented agenda to address the continuing and emerging challenges to the goals of eradicating poverty and ensuring the health of the planet with the engagement of all stakeholders.

8. General Assembly resolution 68/1 had recognized the Council's leadership by calling for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be convened under the auspices of the Council. That Forum had been established to engage decision-makers from key policy areas and to monitor progress of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. That responsibility, coupled with the Council's original mandate for shaping the development agenda, put it at the heart of sustainable development activities. The resolution had also called for the establishment of an integration segment to monitor and promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the Council.

9. During the 18-month transition period before the introduction of the July-to-July cycle in the work of the Council in 2015, much of the Council's attention should be devoted to articulating a new development agenda for the United Nations and formulating policy recommendations for a more rigorous and facts-based approach to measuring and shaping progress. In that connection, ways should be found for civil society, academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to engage more with the Council, and for building upon the Council's role as a multi-stakeholder platform. Every effort should also be made to engage the youth, who held the key to the future.

10. Going beyond traditional North-South thinking, the Council should ensure that official development assistance flows were used as catalysts, with donor and recipient countries both holding each other to account within the Development Cooperation Forum. As the new institutional framework recognized the interconnected nature of development, the Council's activities and impact would be amplified by a system-wide unified and common agenda. The needs of countries in special situations, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and would also require the Council's dedicated attention, resources and guidance. Speaking in his national capacity, he said that those issues coincided with his own country's priorities and goals, which included the fight against corruption, human rights, climate change, sustainable energy, and full and productive employment, especially of young people.

11. For the Council to make a positive difference, it must adapt to the rapidly changing circumstances and live up to its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations. On the whole, the prospects were promising, with the potential for new ground to be broken, but only if Member States strived for the higher goal of better standards of living for all. Failure to do so might damage the Council and the whole United Nations system irreparably. He looked forward to the support of the Member States in building the future they all wanted.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

12. **Mr. Wu** Hongbo (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the foundation had been laid for a successful and smooth transition to the new Council cycle, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 68/1, which represented the most significant change to the work of the Council for 20 years and would serve to deepen its role in all aspects of development. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was an essential part of the new institutional framework and the Council must do its utmost to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development into all its activities. Achieving sustainable development was critical to realizing the future the world wanted.

13. The Council had an historic opportunity to define pathways to a sustainable future, with more jobs, clean energy security and a dignified standard of living for all; those developments were even more urgent for least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and countries emerging from conflict. Strategies based on the narrow pursuit of economic growth without regard for inclusiveness and the related environmental and social considerations would fail. Such strategies also risked harming the ecosphere irreparably as well as the fundamental rights of the citizens who depended upon it. A lack of coherence between social inclusion, environmental protection and economic policies could undermine all of the three objectives. Integrating those elements correctly would consolidate the Council's position at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda and magnify the impact of its work. Member States must therefore work to combine the practical and operational strengths of the United Nations system with the Council's analytical and policy and normative guidance roles. In that connection, he welcomed the steps being taken by the Council to address the unified development agenda.

14. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs was fully committed to that crucial phase of the Council's reform. In that connection, it would continue to strengthen its analytical capacities so as to improve its support for the work of the Council and, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/1, would make recommendations to the Secretary-General to promote collaboration across the United Nations system, in order to better utilize existing resources of the system to broaden support to the Council. The emerging and ongoing challenges facing Member States would require the collective expertise of the Council in order to adopt action-led solutions that would bring about sustainable development and eradicate poverty.

Election of the Bureau

15. **The President** said that three candidates had been nominated to fill the vacancies for the posts of Vice-Presidents of the Council from African States, Asia-Pacific States, and Latin American and Caribbean States, while consultations were still ongoing among the Eastern European States, which would nominate a candidate at a later date. He took it that the Council wished to elect the candidates nominated by those regional groups.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. *Mr. Dabbashi (Libya), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea) and Mr. García González (El Salvador) were elected Vice-Presidents of the Council by acclamation.*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/2014/1 and E/2014/2)

18. **The President** said that the Council's provisional agenda and programme of work for 2014, as contained in document E/2014/1, had been prepared in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/1, in which the Assembly had decided that the Council should adjust its programme of work to a July-to-July cycle with immediate effect, and that the Council should continue to have one substantive and one organizational session. As stipulated in resolution 68/1, the new arrangements would not lead to an increase in the number of meeting days currently provided for the Council. He drew the Council's attention to its resolution 2013/24 on tax matters, in

which the Council had decided to hold, on an annual basis, a special meeting of the Council to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including, as appropriate, its contribution to mobilizing domestic financial resources for development and the institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation. Steps were being taken to identify a date for that mandated meeting and delegations would be kept informed of the matter.

19. As the Council's provisional agenda and programme of work for 2014, as contained in document E/2014/1, had only been made available to delegations on the eve of the current meeting, he took it that delegations wished to be given more time to review it and that action on the matter should therefore be postponed to a later date.

20. *It was so decided.*

21. **The President** proposed that, as in the past, lots should be drawn to determine which delegation would occupy the first seat in the Council seating arrangements for 2014.

22. *The delegation of the Republic of Korea was selected by the drawing of lots to take the first seat.*

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.

United Nations E/2014/SR.2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 February 2014

Original: English

Organizational session for 2014

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 30 January 2014, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Sajdik ..... (Austria)

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Election of the Bureau

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

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14-22351 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Election of the Bureau

1. **The President** recalled that, at its first meeting, held on 14 January 2014, the Council had postponed the election of one Vice-President, pending the nomination of a candidate by the Eastern European States. He had been informed that those States had since endorsed the candidacy of Croatia to fill that vacancy. He took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia), who had been nominated by the Eastern European States, to the post of Vice-President of the Council.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. *Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia) was elected Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council by acclamation.*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/2014/1, E/2014/2, E/2014/8 and E/2014/L.1)

Draft decision E/2014/L.1: "Programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 2014

4. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 2014" (E/2014/L.1). The special high-level meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development mentioned in the draft decision would be held on 14 April 2014 and the morning of 15 April 2014; the two-day partnership forum, to be organized jointly by the President of the General Assembly and himself, would be held on 9 and 10 April 2014; while the mandated Council meeting on tax matters would be held tentatively on 5 June 2014. A new sub-paragraph had been suggested for addition to the end of paragraph (a) of the draft decision, which read as follows: "(vii) The five non-ministerial days of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Council, will be held from Monday, 30 June through Thursday, 1 July 2014. The three-day ministerial meeting of the forum will be held from 7 to 9 July 2014".

5. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council), reading out suggested corrections to the information contained in annex II of E/2014/1, said that the title of item 2 of the provisional agenda should read "Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters" with the words "programme of work" deleted. A new item 3 should be added to the provisional agenda to read "Basic programme of work of the Council"; and all subsequent agenda items on the list should be re-numbered.

6. **Ms. Kvalsøren** (Norway) asked about the origins of the concept of non-ministerial days.

7. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) said that those days had been so designated in order to clearly distinguish them from the three ministerial days to be held during the Council's high-level segment. Nonetheless, if the designation gave delegations cause for concern, it could be modified with the President's agreement.

8. **The President** said that the Council would revert to the standard formulation contained in the resolution. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision, as orally revised.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. *Draft decision E/2014/L.1, as orally revised, was adopted.*

11. **The President** requested the Secretariat to revise document E/2014/1 and re-issue it as E/2014/1/Rev.1, to reflect the latest information approved by the Council. The Bureau had reached agreement with regard to its division of responsibilities for the 2014 substantive session. He himself would conduct the high-level segment and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as the organizational session regarding the programme of work of the Council for July 2014 to July 2015; Mr. García González (El Salvador), Vice President, would conduct the operational activities segment; Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia), Vice-President, would conduct the integration segment; Mr. Dabbashi (Libya), Vice President, would conduct the humanitarian affairs segment; and Mr. Joon Oh (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, would conduct the coordination and general segment.

12. The proposed theme for the Council's operational activities segment, to be held from 24 to 26 February 2014, was: "The changing landscape of development cooperation: What does it mean for the United Nations system?" The proposed theme for the integration segment, to be held from 27 May to 29 May 2014, was

"sustainable urbanization; while the proposed theme for the humanitarian affairs segment and the special event on the transition from relief to development, to be held from 23 to 25 June 2014, was still being discussed by the Bureau.

13. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the proposed themes of the various segments.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to take note of the documentation for the provisional programme of work for the Council for 2014 (E/2014/2).

16. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision E/2014/L.2: "Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti"

17. **The President** invited the Council to consider the draft decision entitled: "Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti" (E/2014/L.2), which proposed the appointment of the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. The draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

18. *Draft decision E/2014/L.2 was adopted.*

19. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat was making arrangements for the use of ECOSOCPlace, a secure online workspace. More detailed information on ECOSOCPlace was being circulated to delegations, along with a registration form. As an additional service, all official documentation would be available on the PaperSmart portal that would be set up for the upcoming meetings of the Council.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.